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RUBBER STAMPS

AT THE GAZETTE OFFICE.

FOREST AND RAIN

A Paper By Prof. Scott On This
Live Topic.

A THEORY OF COLUMBUS

Observation in the West Indies.
Conclusions of Scientists—The
Study in Hawaii.

The Social Science Club met last evening at the home of Chief Justice Judd. There was a large and representative attendance. Prof. M. M. Scott, principal of the High School read the paper and led the discussion. This is a portion of his contribution to the literature on "Forests and Rainfall":

In his great work, "The Earth as Modified by Human Action," Mr. Marsh says the belief that there is a connection between forests and rainfall was first attributed to Columbus. In a history of Columbus and his discoveries, published in Venice in 1571, by an anonymous author, it is stated that Columbus observed the coming up of showers about vespers every day in the West Indies, and thought it due to the great primeval forests—observing that like conditions formerly prevailed in the Azores, but after the Portuguese cut down the forests in the latter Islands, the daily showers ceased. Humboldt also in his Cosmos notes this opinion of Columbus.

Marsh may be correct in so far as recorded opinion on the literature of the subject is concerned, but it is highly improbable that the ancients failed to observe the easily noticed facts of the drying up of streams, consequent upon the cutting down of forests on the mountain sides. It is, furthermore, highly probable that this should have been attributed to a diminished rainfall—the easiest and most primitive method of accounting for the facts, that forests promote, and that denudation retards precipitation is certainly a wide-spread opinion, among both the instructed and the uninstructed. This, however, may be one of those notions so common about the most ordinary facts, in trying to account for which all are deceived. Whatever may be the truth in the matter, the opinion is prevalent everywhere. In Japan, I found it strongly instructed among all classes. In the Hundred Lams of Iyeyam, it is made obligatory upon him who felled a tree to plant a tree, not alone for beauty and for the utility of the timber, but to assume a sufficiency of rain. Are there any well attested records, with instruments of scientific precision, extending over periods of sufficient time, to show without doubt, that reforestation diminishes and afforestation increases rainfall? Marsh says there are not. There being none such is merely negative, and is no proof either way. The matter is so inherently difficult, I do not see how it is to be settled. No one supposes, I presume, that a series of observations for a number of years in a small forest and then felling the forest and taking other records for a like series of years, would determine the matter. There would be too many sources of error. Besides, a small effort of this kind, does not recommend itself. If forests promote rainfall at all, it seems to me they must be of considerable, if not wide extent, of sufficient extent to cool down, or rather to keep cool, while other and adjoining areas are heated, both land and surrounding air. Egypt is often quoted as an example in which tree-planting has increased rainfall. In 1880, the Kedive, Mehemet Ali, caused to be planted 30,000,000 of trees in Lower Egypt. In 30 years after, it was reported that a large increase of rain was the result. A few years ago, in his travels through that country, Marsh made extensive and accurate inquiries of Frenchmen who had lived in Egypt before and after tree planting, and he found no truth in the report as to the increase of rain. Similar affirmations and denials come from Australia and from regions west of the Mississippi.

In a report on forests to the last meeting of the Planters' Association, is found the following, by Mr. D. Forbes: There has been kept a correct record of the rainfall at Kukuihaele for the past 12 years, at two elevations, the last year showing but 24 inches, at 950 feet elevation; while in former years, from 80 to 100 inches was not considered unusual; and that the opinion of several men who have lived for 60 years in these districts, as well as the careful observations of Dr. Guppy, go to show that the rainfall is much less than in years gone by. In the same report, upon the same subject, Mr. K. S. Gjerdum is of the opinion that deforestation in East Maui has largely decreased precipitation of rain.

It has been affirmed that the felling of the forests on the Island of Trinidad has almost ruined the Island—not enough rain now falling there for any practical purpose.

It may, I think, be maintained that so far as observed, rainfall cannot be said to increase or to diminish by retaining or cutting the forests. However, there are certain theoretical considerations which might lead to the conclusion that trees over extensive areas, or even grass and shrub would cause precipitation—certainly in the form of dew and frost, and probably in the form of rain. It is a well known fact that, at certain seasons of the year, and under certain hygrometric states of the atmosphere, the rapid cooling down of leaves and grass causes a heavy precipitation of dew on the upper surfaces of vegetation, which little or none falls on surrounding surfaces.

Dumont gives an interesting extract from the misopogon of Emperor Julian, in which he notes that in his time, the river Seine was wholly exempt from inundations, and flowed with a uniform current throughout the year, while at the present time, there is a difference of thirty feet between extreme high and low water mark.

The topography of our Islands is such that all considerations of prudence should be weighed when dealing with forests and other matters, affecting the conservation of rainfall. Each Island is a mere mountain peak, as it were, running up from shore to peak, in many places, with a slant of nearly 45 deg. If the land has a bare face, the water from heavy rainfalls rushes to the sea, taking with it the very best part of the soil. The transporting power of water being as the sixth power of its velocity, it will readily be conceived what a skinning effect heavy rains would have on the soil. If running with a velocity of two miles an hour, water will move an object of a given weight, doubling its velocity will give it power to move an object sixty-four times as large. Large areas of land on the Spanish side of the Pyrenees have been ruined by removing the forests, while, by preserving the forests on the French side, its fertility is a great as ever.

It would appear that cutting down the forests for agricultural purposes will be far less injurious than the damage done by the browsing and tramping of cattle and goats in the higher reaches of our thickly wooded mountains. Where the woods are cut for any kind of crops, the soil is usually plowed or loosened up and made spongy and absorbent by cultivation. Besides, either cane or coffee trees are planted, and the roots penetrate to some depth, leading the rain-water down so far as the fibrous roots go. If the hill-sides are somewhat precipitous, they are so terraced that the water is caught and absorbed in its course, and thus prevented from washing off the soil. The shade of either cane or coffee trees prevents rapid evaporation.

Cattle and goats, however, not only kill the trees by browsing and tramping the soil around the roots, but they kill off all the shrub and grasses, tramp the ground hard, and make it impervious to rain-water. Many of the oldest and most observant residents of the Islands affirm that, in many places, streams that were perennial in their youth, are now flush in heavy rains only, or dried up altogether. One does not have to travel far in any one of the group to see what devastation cattle and goats have made in the forests. Near Hanalei, great forests of lauhala stand bare and dead. On the mountain sides near Waimea in Hawaii, it is sad to see the dead and prostrate trees. I noticed a like condition in the Waialeale valley on this Island. It is reported that the Island of Kahoolawe is being made a desert by deforestation, caused by cattle.

We are dependent at present, and, perhaps, in a large degree, must always be so, on our agricultural resources, for our prosperity. All possible care and prudence should be exercised in dealing with out still existing forest lands.

Quite a number of members of the club spoke on the question. They furnished facts that will be of use in working out the problem locally. Mr. G. R. Carter mentioned the utility of fencing of territory from stock as done on the Monsarrat ranch on Hawaii. Cattle had tramped down young trees and reduced forest. The Chief Justice remarked on the great numbers of deer and goats that were ruining forest and that could be put out of the way if Island and foreign sportsmen were invited to shoot them. Mr. Jos. Emerson told how the goat pest on Hawaii had been abated by the wild dogs in a certain district. Dr. Maxwell spoke briefly of data that had been gathered for the planters and of the views of Furnow and other students of the subject. Mr. P. C. Jones told of a plantation in which he was interested and the rainfall figures and effects there. The fall had been growing less each year, but when it was down to 17 inches, as in 1896-7, the cane yield had been greater than ever before. There were a number of other speakers.

Mrs. A. F. Judd supplied the members of the club with a lunch that was greatly enjoyed.

BILMARTIN BOWS

Takes a First at Cyclomere in
Dashing Style.

THERE WAS FINE SPORT

Crack Professionals Get Fooled.
Markmen Leave Them in a Handicap—Record Trials—The Next.

Bicycle racing in Honolulu has come to stay. The enthusiasm shown at Cyclomere Park last Saturday night would seem to give good proof of this. The crowds have been large from the very beginning and while that of Saturday was not as large as upon some previous occasions it was by no means what one would call small. The boxes were all filled, some to overflowing. The races were very good. The amateurs are doing better work right along and are making time that the professionals would do well to equal. Nigel Jackson who was a competitor in the mile handicap professional, is the first to break away from the ranks of the amateurs and it is likely that others will follow soon the lead taken by him. Nigel says that there is more money in professional riding and started out very well by winning third place.

In the list of the amateur riders, H. Giles, A. Giles, Treadway, Ludloff, Cowes, Gilman, King, Damon and Eakin, showed up in excellent shape. The riding of Treadway in the final of the mile handicap was a surprise. He rode in excellent form and his spurt was one of the kind read about. In this same race, Gilman fouled A. Giles, and had a bad fall as a result. Although scratched badly enough to require the assistance of Dr. Garvin, he was game to go out upon the track again and ride in the half mile.

The professional races, particularly the mile open, were the most exciting of that class that have ever been ridden on Cyclomere track. Bilmartin is a wonder and by a great kangaroo spurt, he succeeded in jumping the bunch at the finish, crossing the line like an arrow. One looking at him would say that he does not ride in good form but after seeing him in a race or two they will surely have an after thought to the effect that he gets there just the same. Bilmartin is one great big bunch of muscles brought into excellent and systematic service by hard and persistent training. Bilmartin won the crowd and has now established himself as a favorite with the people of Honolulu who love nothing better than a good hot bicycle race. When he came from his quarters after the great race, he wore a lei of pink carnations.

In order to gain an idea of how the races went on Saturday night, the following resume of them is given:

Mile handicap, amateur. First heat—Before the end of the first lap, Damon, the scratch man, caught up with the bunch, consisting of A. Giles, Eakin and Gilman and Halstead. He kept with them until the finish when Giles picked up and walked away from them all on a fine spurt. Gilman won second and Treadway third. Time, 2:33 2-5.

Second heat—H. Giles caught the bunch, consisting of King, Cornwell, Ludloff and Cowes, before they had made half the first lap, but on the last lap, Ludloff made a spurt from a position almost opposite the judges' stand and won first place. Cowes took second and Cornwell third. Time, 2:41 2-5.

Final heat—Treadway came in first in fine shape. Ludloff second and Cowes third. Gilman fell. Time, 2:37 4-5.

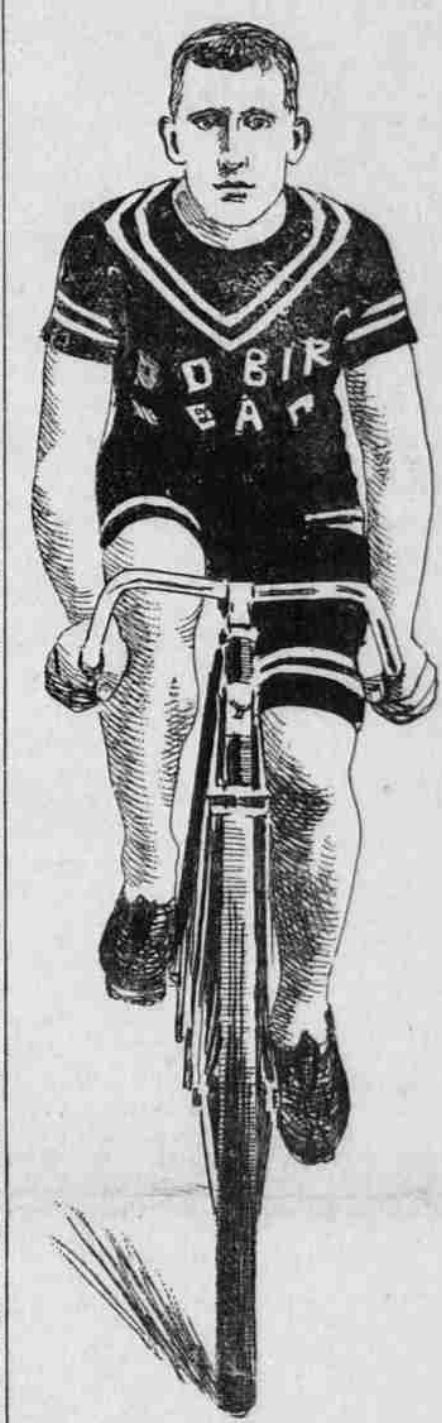
Mile open, professional. One heat—Entries: Terrill, Jones, Martin, Whitman, Sylvester, Johnson and Bilmartin. In this race, George Martin started out in the lead while Bilmartin preferred to take the very last place. Here he hung until the final spurt when he came up on his opponents and at the finish fairly jumped over the line, surprising every one. It was thought that on account of the very little training he has been able to get in during his stay in this place and also on account of the fact that he has done no riding for over four months, he would hardly be able to make much of a showing. When he jumped in ahead of Terrill, a mighty cheer arose from the audience and cries for "Bill" were heard on all sides. When he returned in front of the grandstand, he was given an ovation. Terrill won second place and Jones third. Time, 2:21.

Mile handicap, professional. Entries: Jones, Terrill and Bilmartin, scratch; George Martin, 20 yards; Whitman, 40 yards; Sylvester, 60 yards; Johnson, 80 yards and Nigel Jackson, 100 yards. Jackson started off with a very warm pace but was unable to keep it up. Johnson was soon ahead of him and Sylvester was following very closely. It was evident from the start that George Martin and the scratch men would not win anything very great for they were too busy watching each other and allowed the other men to go ahead as they pleased. There was an attempt made by Bilmartin to catch the front men but the other cracks hung back.

Sam Johnson won first place in grand style. Sylvester second and Jackson third. Time, 2:24. Jones took first place in the second bunch with 2:28 4-5 as his record. Bilmartin did not spurt at the last, considering it of no avail to rush for nothing.

Half mile, open, amateur. Time limit. First heat. This was easily won by Damon with Eakin second and A. Giles third. Time, 1:23 4-5. The second heat was won by H. Giles with King a close second and Treadway third. Time, 1:24 3-5. In the final heat Damon took first place, H. Giles second and King third in the very good time of 1:13 3-5.

George Martin was on the program for a one-third mile exhibition but he was unable to get pace and Bilmartin consented to appear in his stead and went unpaced, making the third



W. MARTIN.
(Bilmartin).

in 41 4-5, and establishing the one-third unpaced record for Cyclomere track.

Tom King in the one-third mile exhibition, flying start, made 41 2-5. He was paced by Ludloff and Treadway. Henry Giles made the one-third unpaced in 43 4-5, two seconds slower than Bilmartin's time, but very good for this popular amateur.

The Hawaiian band was again one of the features of the evening. The lively airs selected by Professor Berger and the snatches of fast music at the finish of each of the races, added materially to the pleasure of the evening.

When Bilmartin rides a bicycle race he is literally part of the machine. His feet are both clinched and strapped to the machine. This gives the fullest advantage of the power of the foot that is coming up while the other is pushing down. No rider of the day is so partial and devoted to this practice and theory as Bilmartin and his present trainer, Marshal, is equally certain that the only way to ride a wheel is to get what they call "full double action." Ruby Dexter had an idea of this when he was first riding races here. He used a very long toe clip and rubber bands. George Martin has his feet fastened tighter to the pedals than any of the local riders of the present day, but will be able to part company with it if he falls.

When Bilmartin spills he does not leave the machine. He can swim as well as shoot and box and if he goes into the lake at Cyclomere will be able to keep his head above water even with the weight of a wheel on his feet. Bilmartin is not afraid of a fall. He says that after spilling himself a hundred or so times he learned something about landing and that he can go down with the machine and come out about as well as if he parted company with it.

A few months ago, Mr. Byron Every, of Woodstock, Mich., was badly afflicted with rheumatism. His right leg was swollen the full length, causing him great suffering. He was advised to try Chamberlain's Pain Balm. The first bottle of it helped him considerably and the second bottle effected a cure. For sale by all druggists and dealers. Benson, Smith & Co., Ltd., agents for Hawaiian Islands.

Harry D. Roberts, master mechanic for the Oahu railway, has joined the ranks of the cyclists and Frank Bergstrom, also of the railway force, is seriously thinking of trying the wheel.

ALL RUSH NOW

Public Improvements Going On
Against Time.

DOWN IN THE AALA DISTRICT

New Ground and Health Better.
Wharf Being Built—For Busy Season—"Fish Market Slips."

Superintendent Rowell is pushing public works in every direction now with more vim and effect than at any time during the busiest biennial period the department has ever had. A full score of separate pieces of work are in progress and every effort is being made to do as much as possible before the time for use of appropriations made by the last Legislature expires. Mr. Rowell can find but a few minutes a day now for attention to strictly office matters and has been stealing from his sleep for weeks to labor on estimate of current work and future plans and on his report to the Minister of the Interior. This report is also of what might be termed burning interest to the Minister of Finance. It will cut quite a figure in the budget calculations.

Some work is still being done in the vicinity of St. Louis College, where Nuuanu stream was changed. The appearance of that whole section is much altered and certainly vastly improved. There has been some delay in finishing up, but the work was a large one and parts of it have of necessity been of the slow character. The improvement of Nuuanu stream was primarily a sanitary scheme and what was intended at the cholera season has been accomplished and results have been shown. A large territory that was before practically without drainage now has a species of sewerage that at least wards off common dangers and that has reduced the mortality figures of the neighborhood. The pretty drives up and down Nuuanu stream, with perhaps the Aala park for Palama children will come in time. New, clean earth has filled up a lot of stagnant and disease breeding pools.

One of the most important jobs now in hand is the new wharf to parallel Sorenson's wharf, near the old fish market. It was the purpose of the Government to provide this additional dock fully eighteen months ago, but time after time some obstacle came up against securing title to the land. Finally deals were closed with the Bishop Estate, S. C. Allen and John Cassidy. Within two weeks after the papers were signed work was started up. The material had been on the ground for several months. In fact the storage of piles had postponed the extension of new Queen street beyond the Honolulu Iron Works. Now that thoroughfare will be opened up. This new wharf was given considerable prominence during the controversy between the Government and Mr. Dillingham on harbor matters. Captain King, Minister of the Interior, said yesterday that work on this new wharf, the same type as several built during the past three years, would be rushed so that it could be used before the present sugar season had ended. Plans for further harbor and dock work will go to the Legislature.

The big dredger is still working away on what are now called the fish market slips. The machine will be kept there indefinitely unless there is a radical shift in policy or unless she is taken off for a few days to do some emergency work. When heavier blasting may become imperative at the slips the dredger may be sent for the time to the sand spits in the channel edge near the lighthouse. That is one of the possible interruptions.

These two fish market slips or wharves should be pretty well at the stage of completion before the end of 1898. As a feature of the present harbor they will present a sample of what a greater harbor will really be. It is the plan to have near the new fish market slips into which the largest ocean steamers can glide direct from the roadstead. This work will possibly make a change in the town that few people have foreseen. The importance of both Alakea and Richards streets will be greatly increased. Values will advance in that part of town and the retail trade will drift in that direction. This is the opinion of men who have given the matter attention and who have invested money that way.

The amount of road work that is now being done is surprising in both nature and extent. There are forces on the highways from Diamond Head and Waialae to Moanalua. Many new streets have been opened and new roads have been built. Road for other islands will be "featured" in the Legislature, but the advocates of that cult must be active to get ahead of the men who will campaign for more streets and wide streets for the city of Honolulu. There are some interests involving almost millions that are feeling with no light touch the absolute demand for the widening of several business streets. These interests, it is learned will be heard very early in the session.